pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.40 #466 Aug. 2022

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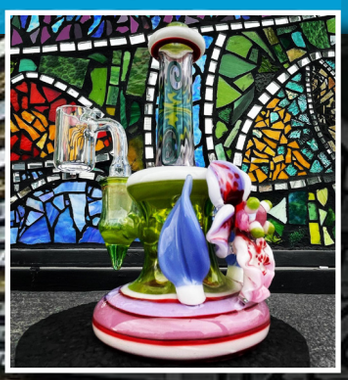

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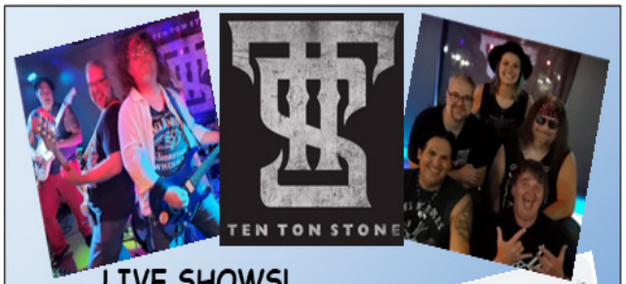

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Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll

Welcome back to another issue of PA Musician Magazine. Summer is well on its way and the outdoor music scene is just heating up. I've spent a good part of the summer in nature doing some camping and enjoying the great outdoors. There is nothing better then combining mother nature with a bit of live music. Tuscarora Records lies just outside the Tuscarora State Forest in lovely Perry County.

Just a short drive through the hillsides, soon after the pavement disappears into a dusty dirt road, lies Tuscarora Records. Along with Zach King (Kingfish and Friends), Tuscarora Records have been putting on "house" shows for a couple years now and decided they wanted to take it one step further. With the help of some friends, Ross at Tuscarora has built a nice size stage made out of rustic reclaimed wood. The stage is set in a nice little gully out back of the studio, giving the crowd an amphitheater like experience. Nestled into the beautiful forest it makes for a one of a kind wilderness backdrop. Shaw Ranch Studio was there to help with lighting and sound duties and People's Provisions was on site with a Pizza oven keeping everyone's bellies full.

Serencia had the honor of maiden performance on the finely crafted stage. A 4 piece with a bit of a twist featuring a cello player, which instantly grabbed my attention. Serencia's music has a very emotional feel that is really brought out by the cello. It was a mesmerizing performance and a great way to blow the sawdust

Serencia

Hello June

off the behemoth of a stage. The band did an amazing job and let the cello lead the way through each song. It was great seeing them vibe and listening to the music flow through the forest. The sound created by the stage location fills the whole valley with the sound of music. They just released a new album "Where The Time Goes" so you should go check it out. You can find them on facebook at www.facebook.com/serencia.

Next up was Hello June. I have heard a lot about Hello June and was eager to see them live. If you have never caught a show it's sort of hard to describe. To me it's as if you took Joan Jett and mixed in some classic 80's Debbie Gibson with a bit of The Cranberries. It's a pop/punk/Americana kinda vibe that really can only be seen live to understand. They have a very strong stage presence and you can tell they spend a good deal of time up on one performing all over the east coast. It wasn't long before the crowd was up dancing and the band had to cool it down a couple times to keep the stage from catching fire. By the end of the night it was safe to say the new stage has been broken in!

Being the adventurous types we decided to head into the Tuscarora state forest just a few short miles, up high on the mountain, to campsite 97 to end our evening. We left a couple songs early to get a fire going and get settled in. When we got to camp we were greeted with the sounds of Hello June echoing through the forest. They finished up the show while we grabbed up some fire wood and listened in. By the last note the fire was going and the smores were flowing. Thanks to Ross at Tuscarora Records and the Kingfish and Friends for the great night and working so hard to grow the local music scene.

Well that's it for this month, get out and enjoy the last month of summer cause its going fast! Remember we are here to serve you, the local music community. The PA Musician is a resource that if used properly can help you or your band reach the audience you're looking for. If you have questions or would like to talk or just want to know how my days going, give me a ring 717-636-4203. Or just send an email joshnoll@pamusician.net SEE YA!

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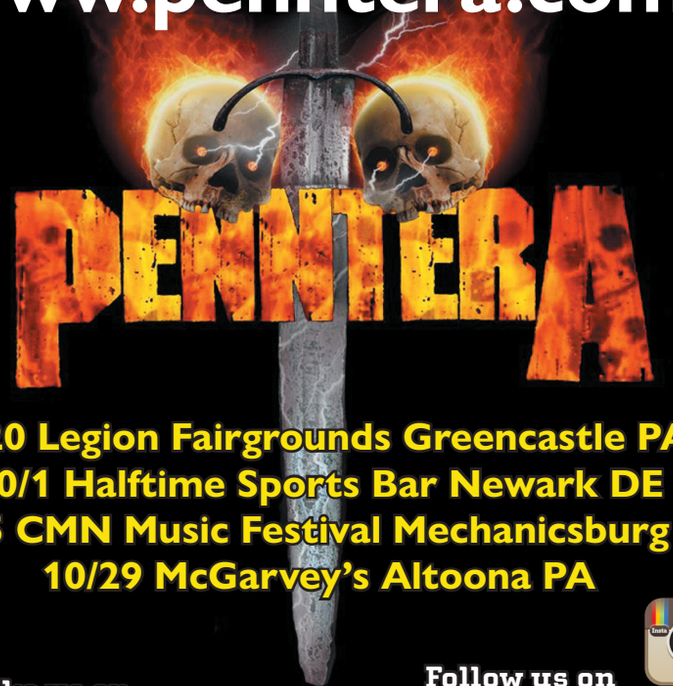

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Slow down! I am not ready for Summer to end, there are still so many amazing things I want to see, do, and hear! To say this month was crazy for me is very much an understatement, but I'm surviving and still managed to squeeze in some live music. You may have heard that sleeping is for when you're dead… that's pretty much my life motto!

Due to way too much traveling and working on the weekends, I put out a plea asking for people to tell me where and when they would be playing during the week. Luckily, one person that answered that plea was Jason Carst. Jason was playing at the Knights of Columbus on a Thursday. Not only was I home, but it was right down the street! I never knew the Knights of Columbus have a big beautiful patio area with their own full bar. It was an absolutely gorgeous night, and when I got there Jason had the place packed and people were singing along. It was a gorgeous, perfect night to sit outside and listen to some music and hang out with friends.

Dead Space 90s

On another Thursday I headed over to Boneshire with Holly and Matt to listen to John Rossey from Cold Spring Union play solo. John's has such an amazing voice, it's always a great pleasure to get to sit back and listen to him sing. I guess I missed some excitement, when he broke a string, but he didn't let him phase him, he had it changed out in no time, and was back playing in no time! John plays all over the place solo and with the band. If you see him around, make sure and stop and give him a listen.

The Commodores

On an odd Friday night at home I was able to catch Six Bar Break at Spring Gate. They are frequent flyers to the main location and Arcona. They were playing "out in the meadow" at Spring Gate on a beautiful night. I actually got Kris to come out with me to enjoy the music. Their equipment was just as surprised as I was because after we got there they were having some technical difficulties, but they were able to figure it out and continue their show. It was pretty awesome to see their drummer, Dave, and his son did a little Summer project of creating a light show to go along with Six Bar Break's music. His son was there running the lights, and it was pretty awesome. I wish it was a night time show so we could truly appreciate the full effect. I always love seeing kids embracing their Dad's special talents as musicians and being part of the show. Super awesome. Check out Six Bar Break's schedule in this issue or online at www.sixbarbreak.com and get out there and support these guys!

John Rossey at Boneshire

Saturday night I had the privilege to work for BRP Entertainment and I headed out to the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows for The Commodores. No,

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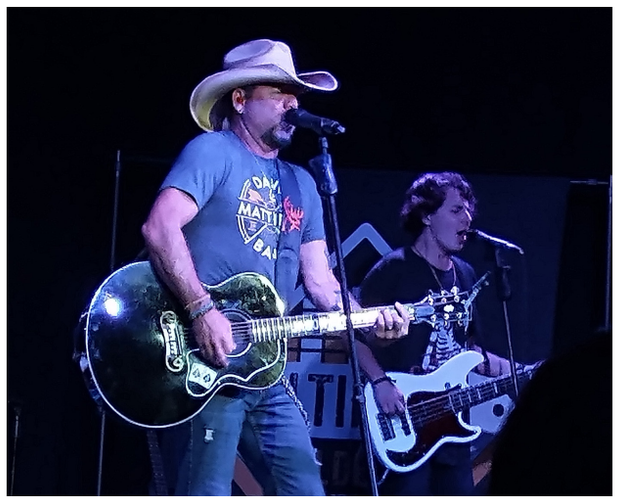

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OUT & ABOUT continued....

Lionel Richie doesn't play with them anymore, and hasn't for a while, but I'll tell ya, three original members are still with the band, Walter Orange, James Dean Nicholas, and William King, "Willy". I had a blast with Willy all day. I think one of the best parts of this job is working with the musicians before you get to witness their "magic" as Willy calls it, and let me tell ya it was MAGIC. Their dance moves were impressive! Their harmonies were spot on. Willy also wails on that Trumpet! After the show as he was walking to the shuttle I told Willy I sent my husband some video and said, "sorry honey, but I think I'm finally gonna run off with the band, unless he learns to dance like this!" Willy and I got our one last laugh before he headed

Six Bar Break at Spring Gate

Dead Space 90s

off to the next town. If you want to see some National Acts in a climate controlled Event Center, check out the Event Calendar for Hollywood at the Meadows in Washington, PA. They have all kinds of shows coming up in the next few months, from country to rock, and even comedians! Sara Evans, Rick Springfield, WAR, just to name a few… I do absolutely miss my local scene, but it is an adventure that

continued on next page....

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OUT & ABOUT continued....

I've always been interested in, so I appreciate the opportunity from BRP Entertainment. If you're looking for entertainment for your special event, we will gladly help you find some awesome talent!

I had a rare Friday night at home, but ironically enough it was hard to find something to do on that Friday. I called all my friends that are usually in the "loop" on happenings around me, and we were all dumbfounded, and then we finally checked Duke's Facebook and found Deep Space 90s. After a delicious dinner, we headed out on the deck for some music in the sweltering heat. Even though it was killer hot, Deep Space 90s were playing every song I LOVE.. so of course I had to dance! It was amazing to finally be out with friends dancing to a full band and having a great time! Of course I was a sweaty mess, but when you're friends love you enough, it doesn't matter. HA! It breaks my heart that I don't see events on my Facebook page and I don't know what's happening all around me. I know there had to be stuff to do, but I seriously don't have time to check every page.. Trying to figure out if something is happening or not. PLEASE advertise in the magazine! It's only $30 for a business card sized ad. And if you can't afford that, then at least send me a personal message and let me know about your show. A Facebook evite isn't the answer.. I don't see those either.. If anyone wants to help me with my Facebook feed to make my life easier, hit me up! And I know I had options, like Racehorse Tavern, Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel, Union House, etc. but honestly my night got started late, and by the time I would've driven anywhere, I would've missed the show. Since Covid.. Bands don't play til 1am anymore.. Anywhere.. And I get it, but when you work til 6, get home, feed your family, clean the dishes, and play with your puppies, most shows are over… especially on a Friday. It sucks, but it's life.

The following day it was back out to Meadows for the Ultimate Aldean Experience and Luke Bryant. Yes, they are both tribute bands, but I've seen tribute bands before, these guys were on a whole new level, like they should've been called a "Duplicate Band" instead of a Tribute band. "Jason" got tired of people constantly asking if he was the real Jason Aldean, so he thought if I look so much like him, maybe I should try to sing and play guitar too, and look at him now, touring the country, making a living, as a tribute band. Pretty crazy. "Luke Bryant" mimicked the real Luke Bryan in his mannerisms, dance moves, etc. I mean it was impressive! Again, behind the scenes I found out "Luke" was going home to Vegas the next morning, shaving his face, fixing his hair, and then he was going to go marry some people in his Vegas wedding chapel as Elvis. Yes… Elvis. He said he doesn't really know who or where he is, until he feels around in his bed and finds his wife and his dogs. Again, super interesting and crazy at the same time. The women were swooning, and the guys posed for pictures with everyone after the show. Everyone had a blast! And as Luke, Greg, Elvis would say, "Thank you..Thank you very much."

On my way home from Pittsburgh, I had to head to New Oxford to do the Interview with F.I.G.H.T.E.R. which by the way, is quite interesting, make sure you check out their story in this issue! But before I went to the interview I also took a quick pittstop to the Sherwood Inn for Derek Henry. I knew some of my friends were going to be there, and it was fun popping in quick to surprise everyone. They were all very surprised so my mission was accomplished. Since I had limited time, Derek pretty much played every song I was requesting which was super nice of him. Believe it or not, it had been a super long time since I got to see him! In August Derek will be playing with Observe the 93rd at Tellus 360, and then will be opening for the Wallflowers and the Spin Doctors! I love all of these bands that are touring again! Check out his schedule in this issue, or at Facebook.com/derekhenryacoustic, or observethe93rd.com. Even though I missed it, Observe the 93rd did just release their new album "eeriness to everything". Don't be like me and blow a speaker on the first track, "Dopamine".. What can I say, it's a great song!

Last night I had a blast listening to The Verve Pipe and Five For Fighting at The Meadows. I gotta say, I was pretty excited for this show, since after all I love all things 90s! Both bands were absolutely amazing. Five For Fighting just released an amazing video for their newly released song, "Can One Man Save the World". The video was actually recorded in the war torn Ukraine. It is powerful with a powerful message. Check it out on youtube! The Verve Pipe opened the show, and afterwards I found out that their guitar player just played with them for the first time on Tuesday, after their actual guitar player had a little mishap running to a trash can at a rest stop. He was actually hurt very badly to the point where they had to call an ambulance! Luckily he will recover after a few reconstructive surgeries, but in the meantime, the show must go on! He luckily had a friend he knew could shred the guitar, so he gave him a call. The replacement lives in Michigan, he got the call at midnight, rearranged his life for the next four weeks of the tour, hopped on a plane (his 1st plane ride EVER) made it to Connecticut, arrived at the venue in an uber 10 mins before the show started, and played! He was listening to The Verve Pipe's music all day, cramming his head, and figuring it out, and he nailed it! I honestly had no idea he was THAT new, during the show, just minutes earlier. You never know when you'll get the call to jump on a tour with a band, but one thing for sure, always be ready! He's having the time of his life! Their guitar player's hands are fine, so he says he's going to get back out on the tour, but the guys aren't too sure. Never a dull moment in a rockstar's life.

Speaking of Rockstar! I'm having a blast rockin' the car BUYING world at Bob Ruth Ford in Dillsburg. HUGE thanks to my three friends, Dianne, Donna, and Kevin, that took advantage of my new role and sold me their cars. I'm definitely here to help you get out of a loan, or just get some cash for that car you never use. Want to trade it in on something special? Let me know what you're looking for, it doesn't have to be a Ford, I can buy it, and then you can trade in your car on the ride of your dreams. It's amazing what is out there and accessible! And how easy the whole process is! Hit me up on Facebook or at RachelRocks@pamusician.net. Sorry, but I had to put in the shameless plug!

Derek Henry / all photos by Rachel Rocks

Well that's all for this month. I gotta stop typing and get home so I can make it to XL Live tonight for Hot & Dangerous, Road Case, and The Famous!!! Oh, and I'll be starting at Jigsy's in Enola on their new amazing patio for some Matt Jameson Acoustic! There's so much happening the month of August, check out this issue and get out there and Support Live Music!! Want me to come to your show, hit me up at RachelRocks@pamusician.net.

NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! July began with Bush, Candlebox and Ayron Jones visiting Hollywood Casino in Grantville, PA on July 3rd. My first time at this new venue which opened last summer. I was informed the stage moved from a muddy field to now an improved gravel lot - with a capacity from 5,000 to 7,000 - much like the former Starlight Amphitheatre at Hershey Stadium. Martina McBride and Big & Rich have each held concerts there this year. And last year included John Fogerty, Journey, Solar Federation, and Little River Band. This Summer will also host; ZZ Top, Ann Wilson, Collective Soul, Switchfoot, Chris Young, Rodney Atkins, Rick Springfield, Men at Work, John Waite, Marshall Tucker Band, Jefferson Starship, Daughtry, O.A.R. and 311.

July 9th Tommy Conwell and the Young Rumblers returned to Lancaster to be part of the yearly Roots & Blues Festival. A phenomenal show which took place at the legendary Village nightclub. The Young Rumblers only play a few shows together per year, (usually two at the Ardmore Music Hall). A very special event which included classics, "I'm Seventeen," "Love's On Fire" and "Walkin on the Water." A massive thank-you to organizer Rich Ruoff and congratulations on another successful festival.

The big-buzz show of July in Central PA had to be the Stadium Tour at Hersheypark Stadium on July 12th. Featuring Def Leppard, Motley Crue, Poison, and Joan Jett & the Blackhearts. A massive concert consisting of over 25,000 fans. The show began with a slight delay due to the weather but then all 4 major bands played full sets. Hometown heroes, Poison, made many mentions of their origins and being from Central PA. A night full of all the hits from all four bands. The Stadium Tour has sold over 1 million tickets so far and continues to roll on towards the West Coast where it will wrap up in September. It will visit Pittsburgh's PNC Park on August 12th.

Indie rock band, Broncho, revisited the East Coast with a great show at Philadelphia's Johnny Brendas on July 21th. Their "I Know You Tour 2022" featured the band playing hits from their four studio albums. Unfortunately the band's final 20 remaining tour dates had to be cancelled, stating "due to unforeseen circumstances. We are going away for a minute, finish an album and then return healthy and strong."

York's punk venue, Skid Row Garage, held a benefit on July 23rd at York's Central Market. Featured 4-bands including; Olde Tigers, Slumlord, Spell Book and Ford The River. The DIY venue has hosted shows since 2009 but was recently closed down. The support to keep the venue going has been overwhelming with the benefit being sold out and a GoFundMe page which has raised $5,393 to date. Skid Row Garage recently purchased a building at 243 W. Market St in York and will be a legitimate music venue.

ZZ Top was the latest band to visit Grantville's Hollywood

continued on next page....

Eric, Tommy Conwell & Tina

Casino on July 24th with Ann Wilson of Heart opening the show. A great summer night featuring all the band's hits like "Pearl Necklace," "Got Me Under Pressure" and "Sharp Dressed Man." Sadly, ZZ Top, lost original bassist, Dusty Hill, almost exactly a year ago but continue on quite well with new bassist, Elwood Francis.

Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band will hit the road next year starting February 1st in Tampa, Florida, marking the group's first gigs in the States since September 2016. The U.S. tour will wrap up in Springsteen's hometown, Newark, N.J., on April 14th. Springsteen and The E Street Band released their most recent studio record, Letter To You, in 2020. The album marked their first live recording together in several decades. Springsteen recently made headlines for taking the stage during Paul McCartney's Glastonbury headline set June 25th, where he joined the Beatle for "Glory Days" and "I Wanna Be Your Man," following a special guest appearance from Dave Grohl. Close tour dates include: 3/18 – Bryce Jordan Center – State College, PA and 4/07 – Baltimore Arena – Baltimore, MD.

Tegan and Sara announced a fall North American tour supporting their 10th studio album. The Canadian twin-duo have 19 intimate shows booked from the East Coast to West in October and November, featuring support from singer-songwriter Tomberlin. Crybaby is due out October 21st via the duo's new deal with Mom+Pop Music. The fall North American tour kicks off a few days after the album release with an October 26th show at Philadelphia's Union Transfer and also stops at Washington, D.C.'s 9:30 Club on October 30th.

Carlos Santana had to postpone six shows after collapsing on stage during a concert in Detroit, temporarily stepping away from the stage "out of an abundance of caution for the artist's health." Michael Vrionis, Santana's manager said in a statement. "Carlos is doing well and is anxious to be back on stage soon. He just needs rest. Doctors have recommended that Mr. Santana gets rest to recuperate fully." Santana is scheduled to play Hersheypark Stadium on August 6th with Earth, Wind & Fire.

Dead & Company is back on the road this summer with a tour of 20 concerts planned at amphitheaters and stadiums through July, marking the sixth summertime trek for the band since 2016's 23-show run that topped $29 million at the box-office. The band recently played Philadelphia's Citizens Bank Park on July 10th, last year's performance at the same stadium drew a crowd of 31,195. Dead & Company's performance history shows more than three million tickets have been sold at 172 reported concerts during almost seven years on stage.

R&B star R. Kelly was sentenced to 30 years in prison June 29th for using his superstardom to subject young fans to systematic sexual abuse. The singer and songwriter, 55, was convicted of racketeering and sex trafficking last year at a trial that gave voice to accusers. Widespread outrage over Kelly's sexual misconduct

continued on next page....

Eric Bess & Frank Phobia of Anthrophobia & Eric at The Stadium Tour

didn't come until the #MeToo reckoning, reaching a crescendo after the release of the docuseries "Surviving R. Kelly." The hitmaker is known for work including the 1996 hit "I Believe I Can Fly." Kelly has been jailed without bail since 2019. He's still facing child pornography and obstruction of justice charges in Chicago, where a trial is scheduled to begin August 15th.

The Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center (HMAC) and Live Nation announced a multi-year deal this week to bring domestic and international touring artists to the Pennsylvania capital. Live Nation will be the exclusive booking partner for the Capitol Ballroom 1,200-capacity venue and The Stage on Herr, with a 350 capacity and a planned redesign with upgraded sound, a wider stage and installing rows of permanent seating. Live Nation unveiled the first shows: Beres Hammond (Aug. 23), Milan Lacuna Coil (Sept. 8), Helsinki Apocalyptica (Sept. 11), and Dead Boys (Oct. 20). Positioned between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, HMAC is strategically located for regional and national touring acts' East Coast routing.

The Rolling Stones headlined London's Hyde Park to 65,000 fans on Saturday, June 25th, with a setlist comprising 19 of their biggest songs. The stop was part of their "Sixty" tour – the Stones' first tour since the passing of renowned drummer Charlie Watts in August 2021. Mick Jagger made a special dedication to the late Charlie Watts before launching into "Tumbling Dice." The frontman told the crowd, "In 1962, we met a drummer from Wembley called Charlie Watts… and sadly this is our first show in London without him. So, we would like to dedicate this show to Charlie!"

Following the Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling that had effectively legalized abortions across the United States, a number of artists have spoken out and pledged to donate money to Planned Parenthood and abortion rights. Lizzo announced she will donate $500,000 from her upcoming tour, with Live Nation matching her donation for a total of $1 million. Billie Eilish also took her Glastonbury headline set on Friday, June 24, to speak her mind about the ruling. "Today is a really, really dark day for women in the US," the 20-year-old said on the Pyramid Stage. Other Glastonbury Festival artists who spoke against the ruling included; Phoebe Bridgers, Idles frontman Joe Talbot, Olivia Rodrigo, Kacey Musgraves and Kendrick Lamar. Rage Against The Machine also pledged a donation of nearly half a million from charity tickets sold at a recent show.

Turnstile continues their 'Love Connection Tour' with lengthy fall outing of North America. The buzzing Baltimore hardcore band continuing to build momentum and playing major venues including The Anthem in DC on October 9th. Special guests include Snail Mail and JPEGMAFIA. The band's GLOW ON LP released last summer has seen widespread praise for the band, with Best Of rankings from outlets including NPR, Pitchfork, Rolling Stone, and Stereogum as the band looks to chart new ground in the hardcore rock/punk scene, described as a youth-minded, youth-driven hardcore punk intent on breaking down barriers sonically and ideologically.

A 32-year old man died after accidentally falling during The Weeknd's concert July 14th at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field. Hugo Sanchez was sitting on an escalator rail when he lost his balance and fell approximately 40 feet just before 11pm, near the end of the show.

AUGUST SHOWS: Ani Difranco - Harrisburg XL Live Aug 3. Poison - Bethlehem Musikfest Aug 7. Wavves - Baltimore Ottobar Aug 13. Kaleo / White Reaper - Harrisburg Riverfront Aug 17. Rod Stewart / Cheap Trick - Hersheypark Stadium Aug 20. Rick Springfield / Men At Work / John Waite - Grantville Hollywood Casino Aug 20. Armadillos - Kutztown bandshell Aug 20. Lady Gaga - Hersheypark Stadium Aug 28.

Tina, Ryan Lindsey of Broncho & Eric

By Rachel Rocks & Josh Noll photos by Rachel Rocks

Recently I was invited down to Equinox Studios in New Oxford to sit down with a new and upcoming band, F.I.G.H.T.E.R. Heading into the interview, I really didn't know much about them, except one thing for sure, they were taking the internet social media platforms by storm! They have thousands of likes on pretty much all of their Instagram Posts, and their original music has over 20k monthly listeners.

I sat down with their lead singer/guitar player, T.R., and their drummer, Tim Stover. T.R. picked up his first guitar from Chad at the Guitar Spot in York, a little under 3 years ago, in October of 2019. After he got the guitar and tried to teach himself for a little while he decided it was time to find a teacher. Thanks to a lot of great recommendations, he started taking lessons from Don Belch at Equinox Studio. Even though he took his guitar and amp to every practice, for the first three months, all Don would teach him was theory. Of course, at first T.R. thought that was a bad idea, but when he started writing songs, he learned the importance of learning theory first! One day at practice T.R. told Don, I'm ready to record a song. He stepped into the recording booth and with a bit of trial and error and some word changes, he completed his first song "Rise Again". When he records songs, he has Tim help him with the syncopation, and he also gets help from Scott Salisbury on bass. Don works his mad recording skills and produces the song till they get it tweaked and ready to release.

Since that first song, F.I.G.H.T.E.R. has released two Eps, "American Made" and "Fists Up". "American Made" was released in February of 22, and "Fists Up" was released in May! "Fists Up" is a song that really gives you a good hook and you can tell by the number of streams that it has caught on with plenty of listeners. T.R. draws from his past mixing his martial arts experience with his music, hence the name F.I.G.H.T.E.R, it's very evident in his lyrics and heavy guitar riffs. Locked in with Tim's devastatingly precise drum beats the songs quickly become familiar and will soon have you singing along and yearning for some serious MOSH pit time.

Most recently, on July 15th, they released their single "Battle Cry" which has already been listed on 3 playlists on Spotify; one of those is the Heavy Metal Classics playlist. To see their song listed on a Playlist between Metallica and Judas Priest was nothing they could have ever even dreamed of, but there it was less than 2 weeks since its release, and it is just rocketing it's way out to the world! With so many streams already, they can't wait to see what happens.

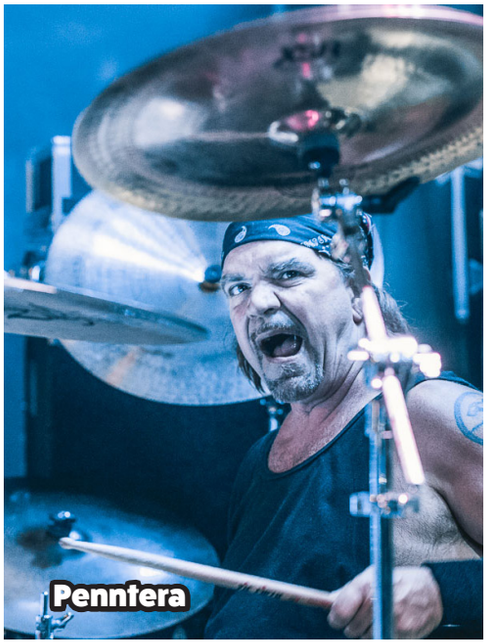
When asked, T.R. who was your biggest influence? Led Zeppelin was number one on the list but he digs everything from Elvis to Metallica to Eddie Money and beyond. One thing is for sure, his lyrics come from the heart and it feels as if each song takes you into the battle that is raging on within his mind.

This might be T.R.'s first jump out into the music world, but the other guys have enough experience under their belts that they've been able to really help T.R. navigate the music scene. Don Belch currently plays with Gallowglas, but has also played with Ninetail who even went on tour with Marilyn Manson, Tim Stover has played with Flesh of the Lotus and Fail of the Fatalist, plus he has also been writing and recording as a solo musician. Scott Salisbury used to play in Evelyn's Ashes and has years of experince.They are currently looking for a rhythm guitar player to take some of the pressure off of T.R. If you have what it takes, hit them up! They've been recording for a while now, they are ready to get out there and entertain the masses. They are hoping to start booking shows for 2023.

As they are watching their songs soar through the charts, they realize, now more than ever, Rock music is making a come-back and they are more than happy to help it along the way! F.I.G.H.T.E.R. has had some help along the way, they wanted to send out a special HUGE thank you to Don Belch. T.R. really considers him a music mentor, and he is very grateful he has taught him so much, and continues to help him hone his craft. They also want to thank Chad at Guitar Spot in York who does a fabulous job at keeping plenty of guitars in stock. Every time T.R. buys a new guitar, he writes a new song, so keep those guitars coming! After he gets those guitars kudos to Jeff Hostettler for being the best luthier that keeps them all in the best condition they could possibly be! Thanks to Gibson Murphy Lab, Gibson Custom Shop, and Friedman Amplifiers for partnering with F.I.G.H.T.E.R. to help them get their social platforms up and running. One last but not least special thank you to all of the musicians for helping T.R. make this dream possible, and also thank you to all of the people who are listening to and streaming our music. We hope you enjoy listening as much as we enjoyed making it!

F.I.G.H.T.E.R. is definitely just getting started. Please go follow them on Spotify and listen to their music, and help them in the "Fight" to keep Rock music alive and well You Tube.com@Fightermusicofficial! For more info text T.R. @ 410-562-3079.

Sheryl Crow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Cody Kilburn

CPMHOF Open Mic Night

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

July's been a typical hot month...both the weather, and the music. While I won't wish the summer away, I won't be upset when cooler temps come in the Fall that's for sure. This month I made it out to seven or eight venues and saw 37 acts. That number sounds huge, but consider that a lot of these were during open mics (see below LOL) that had a lot of acts rotate through within just a few hours. That being said, I was introduced to a LOT of new faces and music this month, and you can't beat that with a stick.

First up was a trip up to Iron Vines Winery for some wine and tunes. Playing that night was a solo acoustic act out of Lubbock Texas, Pat Hardy. I got to speak to Pat for a bit prior to him picking up his guitar, and he's a genuine and very laid back individual that I really enjoyed talking to. He has an indie style with a bit of southern country playing originals and a few covers from The Cure & Guy Clark. Pat's music can be found on most streaming music platforms.

Wendy and I's next trip out was a last minute stop on City Island at the Harrisburg Beach Club. I've seen a lot about this, but it was our first trip there. They've got a great setup going on for outdoor music, two bars serving a good variety of drinks, and lots of relaxed seating.This evening we got to listen to Cody Kilburn play a mix of covers with a great voice that was smooth and maybe a little haunting (in a good way!). He had a wide variety of songs that evening like Billie Jean, Folsum Prison, Dancin In The Dark, House Of The Rising Sun, and even a few originals.

A few days later I headed down to Lovedraft's Brewing in Mechanicsburg for 717 Entertainment's "Ozzfest". got there in time to see eight of the ten bands scheduled that day. The first four bands were original metal and metalcore bands, followed by six tribute bands.The bands I got to see were Evil Like You, Humanity Decayed, Negative Steal (Type O Negative tribute), Closer To Deth (Megadeath tribute), Hate Grenade (doing a Limp Bizkit tribute that absolutely RIPPED!), Stricken (Disturbed tribute), Penntera (Pantera tribute), and Bark At The Moon (Ozzy tribute). All I can say is that this show just kicked ass. Nick, with 717 Entertainment, did an awesome job putting together this event. He's putting together a lot of the shows at Lovedraft's and I can highly recommend checking them out!

Even though it'll be a little out of order, I'm going to combine two of my trips into one. The Central Pennsylvania Music Hall Of Fame has started an Open Mic night, hosted at HMAC in downtown Harrisburg. Hosted by Board of Directors member Todd Bedard, this is an open mic night to showcase local musicians of all genre's giving each 15 minutes or so to play a few songs for the crowd. Please visit the CPMHOF Facebook page to see the announcements for future Open Mic's and get signed up to perform. A house band is provided if needed (but not required), and I have to say that it's just a great time. Over these two nights I got to enjoy music from twenty-three different artists, some of whom I've seen once or twice, but many of which were new to me. Several of the performers are CPMA nominated and winning musicians as well including (but certainly not limited to) D-Bo!, Addi Grace, and Nathan Merovich. Playing music in all genres from Blues, Rock, Country, Hip-Hop, and even Classical Guitar, it really does make for an awesome evening.

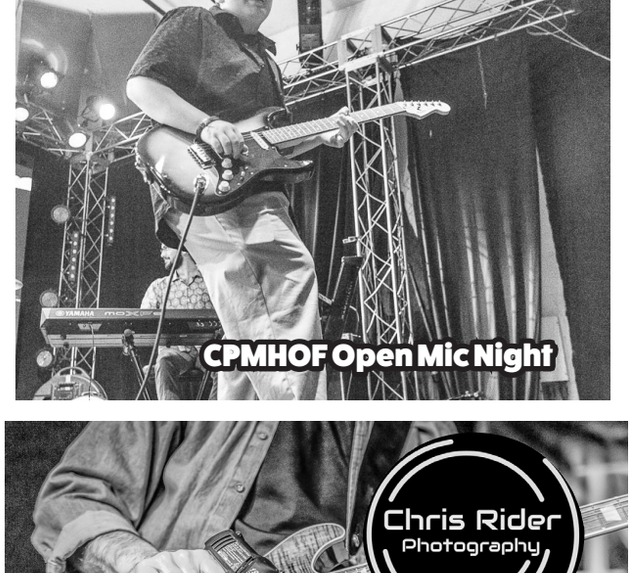
My next trip out was up to Sunbury's Spyglass Ridge Winery. Opening up the evening was North Carolina based five-piece Indie/Americana band Mipso. Playing all originals with great melodies and harmonies, these folks were awesome to listen to and watch perform on stage. Headlining the evening was none other than Sheryl Crow. Sheryl came out on stage looking great and sounding even better. I'll admit that her music is a bit of a guilty pleasure of mine...she's just got an incredible voice. Playing a lot of her popular songs like Leaving Las Vegas, Strong Enough, and Favorite Mistakes; it was easy to see how she has done so well over all of her years performing. Not only did she sound great, but her stage presence and crowd interaction were awesome to see and we had a great evening.

My last evening of music to write about ended up being to two different venues. First up was a trip back to Lovedraft's Brewing on a heavy recommendation from an old co-worker of mine Doug. Since we have very similar tastes in music, I couldn't pass up on a band that was reported to me as "amazing, with very musically talented individuals." Flapjack Jones and The Bender Brohs, a Harrisburg based six piece Rock/Jam band very heavily influenced by one of my absolute favorites, The Allman Brothers. The guys covered a number of ABB songs including Midnight Rider, Ballad of Elizabeth Reed and Jessica...a few other covers such as Doctor My Eyes, I Know A Little Bit, Life in The Fast Lane, and a few originals. Impressively, they had no setlist. These guys made up their setlist as the evening went along, and it flowed beautifully. They've got a new CD coming out in a few months and I'm really looking forward to picking it up.

Final act for the month was a stop at Sherman's Creek Inn on my way home to see Liquid Courage. This female fronted five-piece rock cover band played a wide variety of songs like "What I got", "What's Up", and "My Own Worst Enemy". They had a great crowd, and had a lot of them up front dancing and singing along with them. It was a great way to end the evening.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

~ All photos on pages 14 & 15 by Chris Rider Photography~



THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

The craziness of live music's outdoor season…As I go through the list of shows and performances I attended and covered for this month's writ, I count at least 63 different bands and performers I saw in action – so my work is cut out for me to fit them all in!

Several of those bands and performers I experienced during the final weekend in June as parts of several motorcycle-themed events in west-central PA – dubbed "Thunder Weekend" after the biggest of those events, Johnstown's "Thunder in the Valley." Helping kick off that weekend on Thursday evening was Ebensburg's annual "Wheels & Wings" event, as downtown Ebensburg welcomed arriving motorcycle riders and enthusiasts with chicken wing and other food vendors, plus live music at several locations. I first visited the Ebensburg American Legion's parking lot, where Stacy & the Rejects set the party tone with their upbeat blend of classic rock and hits. I next walked to the area outside the Castle Pub, where the Giants Of Science entertained a large, festive crowd with 1980s era rock and pop hits. I then headed several blocks to the Lloyd Street Brewing Co., where Altoona-based 8-piece ska rockers Tom Nevers Field performed their energetic array of original tunes. And Cambria County heavy rockers Rust closed out the night in front of a jam-packed house inside the Castle Pub. Singer and bassist Mike Griffiths, guitarist and singer Aaron Wolf and drummer John Tedeski brought their own brand of thunder with tunes from ZZ Top, Judas Priest, Led Zeppelin, Bulletboys, Alice In Chains, Motley Crue, Dio and many more.

Roundhouse Harley-Davidson near Duncansville hosted the Pennsylvania Roundhouse Rally during Friday and Saturday of "Thunder Weekend." Friday's music kicked off with The Jaded Lips and their brand of rock'n'soul. Singer and guitarist Mike Wertz, bassist and singer Hunter Karns, and drummer David Applas mixed hard-edged chops and soulful swagger over their variety of original songs plus rock and soul covers. The group played many of their catchy originals, including "It's Not Me," "Hold On," "Whiskey Breath," the new "Whisper Warriors," "Souls," "Where Do We Run," "Testify," "Lockdown" and more. They also did numbers from Bill Withers, Stevie Wonder, Black Crowes and Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir," plus fused together Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" with Bill Withers/Black Crowes' "Hard to Handle," The Stooges' "I Wanna Be Your Dog" with Franz Ferdinand's "Take Me Out," and James Brown's "Get On Up" into Prince's "Kiss." Pittsburgh-based Pearl Jam tribute The Ten Band then took the stage and delivered an amazing performance of Pearl Jam's music. Formed nearly two decades ago, The Ten Band stunningly recreated Pearl Jam's live sound – singer Nick Rhodes's voice was incredible in the Eddie Vedder role; you could close your eyes and believe it was Eddie! He, lead guitarist Brian Pardee, rhythm guitarist Billy Schneider, bassist Todd Kaczorowski and drummer Adam Sivitz performed Pearl Jam favorites such as "Animal," "Elderly Woman Behind the Counter in a Small Town," "Evenflow," "Dissident," "Daughter," "Better Man," "Why Go," "Black," "Jeremy" and the Pearl Jam version of "Last Kiss." They also broke out deeper Pearl Jam cuts such as "Porch," "Wishlist," "Garden" and others. When the Roundhouse Rally crowd demanded the encore, The Ten Band responded with four more songs – "Release," "Alive," their sing-along merging of The Who's "Baba O'Riley" with Neil Young's "Rockin' in the Free World," and "Yellow Ledbetter" to cap the night.

Mark of Mark DeRose & The Dreadnoughts

Saturday's half of PA Roundhouse Rally weekend launched musically with popular area acoustic duo Lauren & Joe. The wife-and-husband tandem of Lauren and Joe George did a variety of rock, pop and country hits from such names as Pat Benatar, Badfinger, Little Big Town, Fleetwood Mac, Amy Winehouse, Hall & Oates, John Prine, Adele, Janis Joplin and many more. Next was Avenue Of Kings, bringing hard rock and metal to the stage. Singer Matt Stoyanoff demonstrated his vocal power and range early and often via Iron Maiden's "Wicker Man" and "Two Minutes to Midnight," Judas Priest's "You've Got Another Thing Comin'" and "Hellion/Electric Eye," Dio's "Rainbow in the Dark" and more. Guitarists Chris Silva and Rob Sottile, bassist Beau Cabassa and drummer Randy Wilson brought the instrumental crunch and might behind him. Headlining this night was popular Los Angeles-based family rock and metal band Liliac. Other work duties kept me from staying to see their set, but eyewitness accounts were impressive as singer Melody, guitarist Samuel, drummer Abigail, bassist Ethan, keyboardist Justin and an additional violin player rocked the house with original songs plus numbers from Dio, Nirvana, Iron Maiden, Metallica and more. (I did get to hear Liliac during their soundcheck, when they did impressive work on Dio's "Holy Diver" and "The Last in Line.")

Veronica Auger w/ the JR Mangan Band

The Jukehouse Bombers performed three times during Johnstown's annual Thunder In The Valley motorcycle rally. I saw them as they helped close out 'Thunder Weekend" on Sunday at Johnstown's People's Natural Gas Park. The father-and-son tandem of Jimmy and Joe Roach on lead vocals and guitars, guitarist Kirsch, bassist Troy Laney, drummer Logan Yonkoske and guest keyboardist and singer Gabe Riva mixed blues and blues-rocking original songs with southern and

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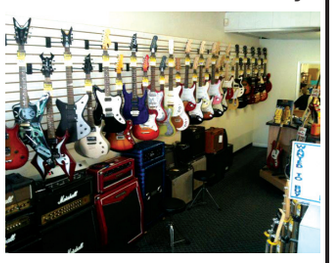

classic-rocking favorites. The originals included songs from the Jukehouse Bombers' newly-released album "Joyland" as well as their previous song creations; and they also did numbers from The Band, Allman Brothers, James Gang, Led Zeppelin and more in their own distinctive hard-driving style. Jimmy wailed scorching harmonica throughout the performance, including the intro to Blackfoot's "Train Train," Logan cut loose on the drums during the group's rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Moby Dick," and Troy walked his bass strings on the Allmans/Molly Hatchet version of "Dreams I'll Never See!"

Terry Wilt of Bone Jacked

Following the Jukehouse Bombers' performance, I proceeded to Johnstown's Roxbury Bandshell to check out one of their weekly Sunday "Summer Concert Series" shows. Two bands performed – opening was the Pazzynski Family with Ukulele Eddie. Based in Pittsburgh and Johnstown, the Pazzynski Family features Janet on lead vocals and guitar, Frank on harmonica and Tyna Pazzynski Kaltenbaugh on backing vocals and percussion; Ukulele Eddie – obviously – plays ukulele. The group did an eclectic assortment of music; spanning Carl Perkins' "Blue Suede Shoes" to The Four Lads' "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)" to polkas like "Who Stole the Kishka," Cake's "Stickshifts and Safetybelts," original songs and more. Perhaps their most interesting song was a mash-up of Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" with The Who's "Pinball Wizard" – the group sang the "Pinball Wizard" lyrics to the "Folsom Prison Blues" melody, and then did vice-versa. Following the Pazzynskis and Ukulele Eddie was Manic Mango, the acoustic pairing of Denise Krestal-Baldwin and Luke Rehm. Opening with their version of the Doobie Brothers' "Long Train Runnin,'" Denise and Luke shared singing duties as they did numbers from Crazy Elephant, Stevie Nicks & Tom Petty, Nilsson, the Beatles, Cage the Elephant and more. During their rendition of Elton John's "Madman Across the Water," Denise sang and played her electric guitar strings with a bow.

The July 4th holiday weekend was busy with live music, and the two events I attended that featured holiday fireworks both involved area baseball parks. After the Altoona Curve (Double-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates) defeated the Harrisburg Senators (Double-A affiliate of the Washington Nationals) 7-3 on 4th of July eve at Altoona's People's Natural Gas Field, Bedford's Coltt Winter Lepley entertained the large ballpark crowd leading up to the fireworks. Coltt presented a variety of acoustic classic folk, country, blues, early rock'n'roll and more. Coltt did a few American-flavored numbers such as Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" and John Denver's "Take Me Home Country Roads," and also Waylon Jennings' "Luchenbach, Texas," Cab Calloway's "Minnie the Moocher," Tyler Childers' "Lady May" and "Follow Me to Virgie," Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" and more.

Dave Ridilla of Milestone

On July 4, State College's Medlar Field at Lubrano Park (home of the MLB Draft League's State College Spikes) hosted the annual Central PA 4th Fest. Three bands and a human cannonball led up to the popular fireworks display; the first of the bands was Joy Marie & the Gill Street Band. Joy Marie recently became the Gill Street's Band's new permanent singer, replacing Jackie Brown. Like her predecessor, Joy brought the soul and gusto as she fronted the Gill Street Band on brassy favorites from The Temptations, Earth Wind & Fire, Average White Band, The Commodores, Stevie Wonder and others. Happy Valley favorites for more than a quarter century, Velveeta followed with their celebration of "80s cheese," performing 1980s era hits and favorites from Tom Petty, Violent Femmes, Kenny Loggins, Rick Springfield, Hall & Oates, Poison, Def Leppard, plus non-80s fare from Blue Swede and Neil Diamond. Headlining the music portion of 4th Fest was Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes. "The Godfather of 'the New Jersey sound,'" Southside Johnny (John Lyons) & the Asbury Jukes have been closely aligned with Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band since the 1970s, and Jon Bon

continued on next page…

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THE PROFESSOR continued....

Jovi toured with the band during 1990. Eight members strong with three-piece brass section, they performed a rousing set of rock, soul and blues; doing many of their established numbers. Southside Johnny brought the rugged blues growl and swagger up front on such numbers as "Cadillac Jack's Number One Son," "Talk to Me," "Love on the Wrong Side of Town," "Broke Down Piece of Man" and others, plus their popular covers of The Left Banke's "Walk Away Renee" and Bruce Springsteen's "The Fever." The group also broke out versions of the Rolling Stones' "Happy," and a set-closing rock'n'roll medley launched from Jerry Lee Lewis' "Great Balls of Fire." The Asbury Jukes – guitarist Glenn Alexander, bassist John Conte, pianist Jeff Kazee, drummer Tom Seguso, and the horn section of trumpeter Chris Anderson, trombonist Neal Pawley and sax player John Isley – displayed and blended their talents frequently throughout the performance. Following the performance and prior to the fireworks, David Smith Jr. – The Human Cannonball – provided thrills as he was fired from a cannon 80 feet into the air and landed safely into a net.

Jimmy Roach of the Jukehouse Bombrs

Entering 4th of July weekend, I finally got to check out Katz 22 when they performed at the Tussey WingFest at Tussey Mountain Amphitheater. I arrived during openers Ted McCloskey & the Hi-Fi's, who delivered an enthusiastic set rock and pop favorites. Singer Molly Countermine was delivering the sass on Lizzo's "About Damn Time," and the group proceeded with rowdy takes on numbers from Hall & Oates, the Rolling Stones, Amy Winehouse, Modest Mouse, The Killers, Clash and more. In between bands, Anchor & Arrow – the husband-and-wife duo of Matt and Jenn Dashem – entertained the wing-eating crowd with their blend of music and humor.

They mixed a wide variety of tunes, including numbers from Jefferson Airplane, Commodores, Dolly Parton, Simple Minds, Johnny Cash, the Beatles, Prince, medleys and more. They also traded lighthearted quips with show emcee Ricky LaPean and staged a hula-hooping contest for the youngsters. Katz 22 then capped the evening with their excellent set of classic, arena rock and more. Together five years, Katz 22 features four talented musicians – singer and keyboardist Zach Nyce, bassist and singer Rusty Fohner, guitarist and singer Kathy Grimm, and drummer and singer John Hawl. They quickly brought the WingFest crowd to attention as they did numbers from Journey, Cars, Kansas, Styx, Sugarloaf, Pat Benatar, Toto, Heart, Prince, Steely Dan, Head East and more. Katz 22 broke out a few surprises along the way, such as digging out Survivor's 1984 hit "I Can't Hold Back" and Three Dog Night's "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)," and merging Walk The Moon's "Shut Up and Dance" into U2's "Where The Streets Have No Name." Their vocals, musicianship and tightness were strong throughout the performance, and they were cordial and upbeat with the audience, which cheered approval throughout. Katz 22 slammed an exclamation point onto their performance with a powerful rendition of Boston's "Foreplay/Long Time" to cap the night.

Denise Krestal-Baldwin of Manic Mango

Altoona's Rockin' the Yard concert series continued last month in the upper lot of Altoona's Jaffa Shrine. Their July 4 weekend edition was a country party featuring the Zac Grace Band and Pistol Peg & the Beer Kegs. Zac and his band kicked off the night with a set that blended a number of his original songs with popular country favorites. Zac on vocals, guitarists Brad Lego and Ben Eberhart, bassist Eric Wertz and drummer Matthew Stevens warmed up and rallied the arriving crowd into party mode with favorites from Rhett Akins, David Lee Murphy, Luke Bryan, Luke Combs, Morgan Wallen, John Michael Montgomery, Toby Keith and more. Zac threw in some of his own tunes as well, including "Worth the Wait," "Only Here for a Beer," his new "Firefly Sunset," his debut single about seizing the moment "This Is the Day," and toward set's end, his recent single "PPL I Drink With" and "Stay Here or Stay Gone." A big highlight during this set was the surprise onstage arrival of area musician and former NBC "The Voice" finalist Josh Gallagher, who partied down with Zac and his band on a Morgan Wallen number. Before Pistol Peg & the Beer Kegs started their performance, young Caitlyn McConnell sang a stirring rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner," while members of one of this show's beneficiaries, the Combat Vets Association, stood alongside her. Pistol Peg & the Beer Kegs then got down to business, lighting up the Jaffa Shrine concert grounds with a lively performance that quickly got people moving and cheering. The group fired through many country favorites over their two sets, showing love for the audience and generating happy vibes. With the sibling pair of Jill Renee and guitarist Mark Simanski singing lead, the group did hits from Miranda Lambert, Shania Twain, Maren Morris, Luke Bryan, Dixie Chicks, Little Big Town, Luke Combs, the Eagles, Sugarland, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Randy Houser, Alan Jackson and more. The group threw a surprise curve ball to the crowd with a strong rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" toward show's end, with Mark giving his best Robert Plant howl. And Pistol Peg & the Beer Kegs got the large and festive crowd a-stomping with their established finisher, Alabama's "Mountain Music." Pistol Peg and company fired on all cylinders and sounded sharp throughout their performance. Perhaps most importantly, Pistol Peg & the Beer Kegs generated a feelgood energy that resonated throughout this audience, and smiles could be seen everywhere. While I took pictures, a man who had never seen the group before said to me of Pistol Peg & the Beer Kegs, "They made me happy!"

Also on July 4th weekend, the annual Wham Bam Mountain Jam provided a day of music at a remote location in the mountains west of Port Matilda. Twelve bands and performers kept the music continuous throughout the day and evening. Acoustic artists Steve Treado, Dylan Miller and Luke Cimbala each performed prior to my arrival; but I did get to see sets by psychedelic rhythm & bluesmen The Roof; solo guitar performer Earthwax (the creative alias of Tim Higgins of The Perkolators); The Perkolators with their blend of rock, soul, reggae and funk; Port Matilda's homegrown rock'n'soul performers Homegrown; State College acoustic Americana artists Caledonia; the host band Donny Burns & the 3rd Degree with their high-powered and

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rocking set, Dauphin County hard rockers Broken Fayth; and State College indie-rock trios Dogwood Co. and Mellow Honey. Wham Bam Mountain Jam's musical menu had something for everyone, and this year's event saw the largest attendance yet.

Brad Lego of The Zac Grace Band

Arts Festival Weekend returned to Centre County last month, as the annual Central PA Festival of the Arts and People's Choice Festival of Pennsylvania Arts & Crafts returned after a two-year hiatus stemming from COVID-19. I attended the Thursday leg of the Central PA Festival of the Arts and caught many of the performances, starting with The Jay Vonada Quartet at the Allen Street Stage. Namesake and bandleader Jay on slide trombone, Mac Himes on guitar, Rob Gardner on upright bass and Bobby Leidecker on drums performed smooth-sounding jazz compositions from Jay's albums, as well as his arrangement of George Gershwin's "Summertime." I then headed to the Festival Shell stage to see the 17-member Keystone Swing Band as they performed swing and jazz standards from names like Maynard Ferguson, Woody Herman, Duke Ellington, Burt Bacharach and others. Guest Elizabeth Webb contributed her bright singing voice on several numbers. I returned to the Allen Street Stage to see Revamped; the area husband-and-wife orchestral duo of Mark and Sally Williams Minnich took their violins through interesting arrangements and journeys, including renditions of Simon & Garfunkel's "Sound of Silence," "Over the Rainbow" and more. I next headed to Sidney Friedman Park to see Lancaster's Mark DeRose and the Dreadnoughts, performing roots and soul-based rock. Singing, playing acoustic guitar and keys, Mark led the group on a selection of original songs, including several from his latest album, "In Search of the Good Days," as well as select covers from The Band, Grateful Dead, Steve Miller Band and more. I then caught the latter portion of the JR Mangan Band's performance at the Allen Street Stage; JR on vocals and acoustic guitar, Veronica Auger on lead vocals, Mark Toci on lead guitar, Jason Ebersole on bass and John Lynch on drums played upbeat renditions of tunes from the Patti Smith Group, Redbone, Pretenders, Dusty Springfield, Carrie Underwood, Journey, Tom Petty and more. I caught blues next at the Festival Shell Stage, as Lehigh Valley based blues performers BC Blue performed their brand of soulful electric blues. Singer and namesake Bev "BC" Conklin, guitarist Joe Mac, bassist Bobby Soul, keyboardist "Chicago" Carl Snyder and drummer Glenn Spadone blended numerous original songs with blues standards such as Willie Dixon's "Hoochie Coochie Man," Albert Collins' "If You Love Me (Like You Say)," "Key to the Highway" and more. I returned to the Allen Street Stage one last time to catch my first look at Williamsport's Cass and the Bailout Crew. This group won new fans with their exciting set of original roots-based rock and select covers. Singer and group namesake Cass Chatham provided the fiery, sultry and emotive voice up front, alongside guitarist and singer Mike Steppe, bassist Nick Laylon, drummer Mike Wrench, Jr. and keyboardist Jim Lovcik. The group did tunes from their "Room to Breathe" album along with some newer numbers, and also performed songs from Grace Potter, Chris Stapleton, Tom Petty, Dwight Yoakam, the Jefferson Airplane pairing of "Somebody to Love" into "White Rabbit" and more.

The 10th annual Route 22 Rock & Blues Festival also happened during Arts Festival Weekend last month at the Lincoln Caverns Campground near Huntingdon. This year's event expanded to three days and included 20 different bands and performers. I witnessed them all – including Friday's slate of Hot Fudge Mondaes, Sunset Over Mars, Bad Luck Lover Boys, Treaties, The Snipped, Negan and Black Sun…The Saturday roster of Nik Mik, The Pines, Abstentious, Neon Hotel, JuJu Bone, The Jaded Lips, Maul, The Pennsoulvanians, The Roof, False Spring and Rick Ramsey & Friends (I was recruited to play congas as one of the 'Friends')…And the Sunday acoustic wind down with Brother Jack and Dylan Miller. Highlights abounded throughout the weekend, including Black Sun's extended otherworldly set of mystic and progressive doom metal, the "village" of musicians and other helpers who assisted in setting the stage for the Pennsoulvanians' soul-stirring performance after the event's primary sound engineer took ill and had to leave the concert grounds, and Dylan Miller saving the day on Sunday by bringing an alternate sound system after the main sound system had been broken down before the scheduled acoustic performers. This was the first year I camped out and stayed for the entire festival; it won't be my last!

Tabby Wilson of Homegrown

For my first time ever, I checked out the annual Jackson Township Heritage Festival near Vinco (north of Johnstown) last month. I caught most of this day's musical slate at the festival; only missing the morning kickoff set by The Dillons. I arrived in time to catch a good portion of the set from Altoona's Bone Jacked; with Phil "Philly Grooves" Wagner handling lead singing and guitar duties this day, Bone Jacked fired up the rock'n'roll with tunes from Tom Petty, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Steve Miller Band, Steppenwolf and more. Next was the acoustic incarnation of western PA's Chrome Eyes (formerly Dive), who mixed original songs with classic and modern rock numbers from CCR, Matchbox 20, Greg Kihn Band, Sugar Ray, Tom Petty, Temple Of the Dog, Johnny Cash, and even a rendition of Rod Stewart and Faces' "Ooh La La." Following them was Westmoreland County foursome Milestone. Featuring singer, guitarist and fiddler D.J. Honse, guitarist and singer Jack Kollar, bassist and singer Dave Ridilla and drummer John Kot, Milestone did great work on a variety of classic rock and hits spanning the 1950s to 80s. They showed strong vocals, harmonies and instrumental skills on numbers from CCR, Santana, Tommy James & the Shondells, Jim Croce, Bob Seger, Charlie Daniels, Eagles, Willie Nelson, Roy Orbison, Loggins & Messina and many more. Fuse then took the stage and quickly fired up the Saturday night dance party. This show marked the official return of Tom Buck on lead guitar after a few months away, rejoining frontman Nick George, bassman Rick Hartman and drummer John Tedeski. Dancers quickly filled the floor as Fuse's opening number, Grand Funk Railroad's "We're An American Band," sounded through the performance tent. Fuse kept the tempo up and dance floor filled as they fired through tunes from Lenny Kravitz, Black Crowes, Aerosmith, Eddie Money, Tom Petty, J. Geils Band, Free, the Rolling Stones, Foreigner, Poison, Billy Idol and a lot more. These guys brought abundant enthusiasm and tight execution to their performance, and gave this festival crowd no reason to want to sit back down or leave the performance tent.

Other performances I witnessed in recent weeks were all indoors – including The Amish Outlaws' raucous party last month at McGarvey's in Altoona with Shallow 9 opening…also

continued on next page…

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PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

MIKE WILLIAMSON – ALMOST THERE... (no label) A Morrisdale native who now calls Altoona his home base, Mike Williamson began to pursue his interest in country music a decade ago, honing his songwriting skills plus visiting, working and recording in Nashville. Mike's full-length debut album, Almost There..., shows the fruits of those labors. Mike crafts ten alluring songs that touch on personal and relatable themes of love, life, dreams, heartbreaks, ambitions and more. Mike displays a clear and strong voice through all of them, with a contingent of local and Nashville contributors giving the songs depth and smoothness. An eagerness to learn in life and relationships informs the words of the hopeful album-opener and single

"Stompin' Grounds," and the upbeat "Bet It All On You" expresses the willingness to gamble on love. Co-written by Mike and Chris Woodward, the love-on-the-skids ballad "You Go, We Go" presents Mike dueting with Bellwood-based singer Arianne Hoffman. Mike realizes that life isn't always an easy ride on the dreamy "Don't Work Like That," and he strikes a hopeful and thankful tone on the self-improvement ode "Workin' On Me." A slight hip-hop edge guides "Same Kinda Crazy" with its optimistic words about making love work. And Mike remembers a lost friend on the delicate, piano-driven album closer "I'll Know It's You (Shawn's Song)." Mike's words flow smoothly as he weaves his themes and stories, and he sells these words with a sincereness and expressive singing style. While the overall style is undeniably country, a variety of arrangements and modern production elements give these songs fresh and distinctive accents. The result is a bright-sounding album; Almost There... presents an important step in Mike Williamson's musical journey, as his song ideas are developed into vibrant creations that stick in the cranium and stir emotions. An impressive debut. (The album can be obtained and accessed through digital online platforms.)

MOONSHINE JASMINE – I'M NOT SORRY (no label) Starting as a solo singer, songwriter, and guitarist, Pittsburgh's Megan Pennington formed Moonshine Jasmine in 2021 to further develop her music and take it to the road. Three members strong at one point, the current edition is a duo, Megan with bassist and singer Tyler Cannon. The group's debut recording, I'm Not Sorry, introduces the pair's punchy and spirited blend of acoustic folk rock and blues flavors. Megan's voice is front and center here; her presentation is fearless, and she delivers a hearty energy and grit rooted in the tradition of Janis Joplin. Her lyrics reflect that spirit, as she sings themes of independence, life on her own terms and more. She sings of a tranquil smalltown getaway from city life on "Nowhere Ohio." The uptempo "Hang On There Ryder" is a mother's message to her young son, informing him that life's ride will be an exciting one. On "Until the End," Megan finds a partner in crime who throws caution to the wind like she does,

but she defends her space and proclaims her independence on the punchy "Smokey Mountain Revival." Tyler sings of relationship laments on the Pittsburgh-themed "Millvale Blues." The set concludes with "Whole Lotta Trouble," which encourages listeners to stay the course and not let life's bumps and potholes get in the way. All six melodies are infectious, and Megan's gusto and attitude add authority to her words. The lively guitar strums and drumbeats keep these tunes moving and give consistency to the set. The overall mix is simple, clear and to the point, enabling Megan's voice and the instruments to do the talking. This is a strong introductory set to the world of Moonshine Jasmine – I'm Not Sorry offers a confident, robust listen. (The album can be accessed through online streaming platforms, or obtained through the website www.moonshinejasmine.com.)

THE PROFESSOR continued....

State College heavy rockers Goatsmoker and Frederick, Maryland-based metalcore rockers Who They Fear at McGarvey's in late June…And I saw – and participated in – the annual "Make Music Day" festivities in late June during "Open Mic Night" at D'Ottavio's Gran Sasso in Hollidaysburg. Thanks to James Grove for inviting me up to slap beats on my djembe!

News and notes…43 different bands and artists will perform through three days during the 3rd annual Mass N Tha Grass Music & Arts Festival, happening Aug. 5-7 at the Sinking Valley Fairgrounds near Altoona…New York hardcore legends Madball will headline the 31-band, 2nd annual Upstage Music Festival, happening Aug. 12-13 at the Clearfield County Fairgrounds, with proceeds helping several local charities…The Backyard Rockers, The Stiffs, Bone Jacked, Felix & the Hurricanes and Autumn Rising will donate their talents for the annual Vets Fest, happening outside August 14 at Altoona's Unter Uns Musical & Entertainment Society; proceeds benefit the Vietnam Veterans of America Blair County Chapter 967…Mama Corn, The Hillbilly Gypsies, Hickory Bottom Band, Centerfire Bluegrass and Tree will perform during the "Pickin' for Wishes" bluegrass festival on Aug. 20 at the Cresson Sportsmen's Club near Loretto; proceeds benefit the Make A Wish Foundation of Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia…The songwriting duo of Bill Dann and Denny Pompa will hold a special video shoot event for their song "Wings Of Fire" on Aug. 20 at the Bull Pen Restaurant in Tyrone; the Bull Pen will introduce their new "Nuclear" wings, and special "Wings Of Fire" T-shirts with artwork by a pen-sketching Professor will be available for purchase…Members of Small Town Horror Show have formed a new Type O Negative tribute project; None More Negative will play its debut performance opening for Penntera Oct. 29 at McGarvey's in Altoona…Former members of Naildriver and This Calling have merged to form a new project called A Starlite Gray…Dave Wessels has taken over drumming duties for Centre County party rockers TV Blonde, replacing Blaine Martin…A Pittsburgh live music venue, Excuses Bar & Grill announced its pending closure last month after 34 years in business.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. And continue to SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

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WANTED: Percussionist. Altoona-based acoustic duo/trio looking for percussionist: cajon box, bongos, tambourine, etc. No full drum set-up needed. Our music is 90% cover/10% original. Our interests span '40s-'90s with main focus on the '60s-'80s Stones, Beatles, Byrds, Neil Young, Eagles, Hendrix and more. If you have a passion for this type of music and enjoy playing it please contact us: Bob 814- 943-0402, Dave 814- 943-5000. No drugs or alcohol please.

METAL BASSIST AND 2ND GUITARIST NEEDED 2nd Guitarist and bass player needed to round out our (Old School METAL PROJECT) Meaning NO form of Djent or any form of Core such as metal core, hardcore, post hardcore ETC. List shows covers that we do, but we also have originals. Practice in Dillsburg once a week on Sundays. Hit me up for details and examples of our music. Thank you.V @ divinemizery@gmail.com

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AVAILABLE: Picker/singer/lyricist available for co-writes, live gigs. Baritone vocals, 6 & 12 string guitars and harmonicas. Lancaster city. 610-334-863

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AVAILABLE/ WANTED: Guitarist with years of experience and pro gear looking to form band. Covers/originals from classic to indie rock. Lancaster area. Email Steve at sydbarrett927@gmail.com

AVAILABLE: Singer/songwriter looking to form or join classic metal band, gear, lighting connections. Hazelton area, Sabbath, Maiden, Priest, anything hard or metal have experience.Call: 570-926-9984

DRUMMER AVAILABLE for live and Studio Professional, many years Experience. rhythmsaint7@gmailc.com 570- 594-8215.

AVAILABLE: Experienced Bass Player looking for classic rock and billboard top 40. Call Roby at 717-668-1543

AVAILABLE: 28 year old drummer looking to join or start a rock band. Text 717-454-8950 or rcoomer27@gamil.com, Lancaster area

AVAILABLE: Singer. Tenor. Likes the blues, 90's, Alt, Hard Rock. Looking for a place to grow, write, and create. Mellow hardworking family man. Selinsgrove Area. vonkline@ptd.net

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W/ STRAY FROM THE PATH, DYING WISH

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

CROWBAR
W/ SPIRIT ADRIFT + MORE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

OTHERWISE
W/ LINES OF LOYALTY (FREE SHOW)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

COREY FELDMAN
LOVE RETOURS (22 + A FEW IN 22) TOUR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

DEICIDE
W/ KATAKLYSM, INHUMAN CONDITION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

TOMMY VEXT
W/ KATAKLYSM, INHUMAN CONDITION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

SEVENDUST
W/ NONPOINT, BASTARDANE, BURDEN OF THE SKY

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AUG 20: TIERRA CALI
AUG 27: BOXING EVENT
SEPT 20: MONUMENTS

OCT 12: ACE HOOD
NOV 4: PRO WRESTLING
NOV 6: SECKOND CHAYNCE
NOV 15: BLACK FLAG